REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 9, 2007 ("*Office Action*"). At the time of the *Office Action*, Claims 1-20 were pending in the Application. In the *Office Action*, the Examiner rejects Claims 1-6, 9-13, 18, and 19, and objects to Claims 7, 8, 14-17, and 20. Applicant amends Claims 1, 8, 9, and 18. As described below, Applicant believes all claims to be allowable over the cited references. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and full allowance of all pending claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that Claims 7-8, 14-17, and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, as discussed below, Applicant believes that independent Claims 1, 9, and 18 (from which Claims 7-8, 14-17, and 20 depend, respectively) are also allowable. Therefore, Applicant has not amended Claims 7-8, 14-17, and 20 to include the limitations of their respective independent claims. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Section 103 Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-6, 9-13, and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,245,617 issued to Nakagawa ("*Nakagawa*" in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,491,687 issued to Christensen et al. ("*Christensen*"). For the reasons discussed below, Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-6, 9-13, and 18-19.

Independent Claim 1 of the present Application, as amended, recites:

> A method for error detection in a high-speed switching environment, comprising:

receiving, at a switch input port, a plurality of packets, including a first packet having at least first and second portions;

initiating switching of the first portion before the entire second portion is received at the switch input port; and

using tag data associated with the first packet to calculate error detection data for the first packet, the error detection data calculated before the entire second portion is received at the switch input port;

performing an error detection technique on the first packet using the error detection data that was calculated using the tag data associated with the first packet.

Applicant respectfully contends that neither *Nakagawa* nor *Christensen* (nor their proposed combination) discloses the combination of elements recited in Applicant's Claim 1.

For example, the proposed *Nakagawa-Christensen* combination does not disclose, teach, or suggest "using tag data associated with the first packet to calculate error detection data for the first packet, the error detection data calculated before the entire second portion is received at the switch input port," as recited in Claim 1. In the *Office Action*, the Examiner acknowledges that *Nakagawa* does not disclose an error detection data technique and instead relies on *Christensen* for performance of the error detection technique. Applicant respectfully submits, however, that *Christensen* does not disclose, teach, or suggest "using tag data associated with the first packet to calculate error detection data for the first packet, *the error detection data calculated before the entire second portion is received at the switch input port*," as recited in Claim 1.

Christensen merely relates to a "LAN switch that automatically changes from a cut-through mode of operation to a store-and-forward mode of operation in response to the detection of a frame error rate which exceeds a predetermined threshold, and automatically changes back to cut-through operation in response to an error rate that is less than a predetermined threshold." (Column 2, line 67 through Column 3, line 5). For performance of these operations, a "port 74 maintains current port statistics including the number of good and bad frames passing through port 74, and the operational status of port 74." (Column 4, lines 21-23). "[T]he mode of operation is determined by mode selector

80, in response to data regarding the number of frame errors sent from port 74 to mode selector 80 via signal line 82." (Column 4, lines 40-45). The process, as disclosed in *Christensen* includes "initially setting the LAN switch to operate in the cut-through mode . . . . because this is the most efficient mode of operation for the LAN switch." (Column 5, lines 31-35). "Next, a frame is examined for errors as such a frame passes through the LAN switch from a source LAN segment to a destination LAN segment." (Column 5, lines 37-39). If a frame error is detected, "the LAN switch examines a frame for errors as that frame passes through the LAN switch from a source LAN segment to a destination LAN segment." (Column 5, line 66 through Column 6, line 2). For each frame error, a "total frame count is incremented." "After the same period has expired, the process enters . . . the determination of whether or not to switch from the "cut-through" mode to a "store-and-forward" mode." (Column 6, lines 18-22). Thus, *Christensen* merely discloses examining frames for errors and if errors exceed a threshold switching from "cut-through" mode to "store-and-forward" mode. *Christensen* does not disclose, teach, or suggest "using tag data associated with the first packet to calculate error detection data for the first packet, *the error detection data calculated before the entire second portion is received at the switch input port,*" as recited in Claim 1. Because the recited claim elements are absent from the teachings of both *Nakagawa* and *Christensen*, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is allowable over their proposed combination.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claim 1, together with Claims 2-6 that depend on Claim 1.

The Examiner also relies on the proposed *Nakagawa-Christensen* combination to reject independent Claims 9 and 18. Applicant respectfully submits, however, that the proposed references do not disclose, teach, or suggest the combination of elements recited in Applicant's independent Claims 9 and 18. For example, Claim 9 recites "a switch core operable to . . . use tag data associated with the first packet to calculate error detection data for the first packet, the error detection data calculated before the entire second portion is received at the switch input port." As another example, Claim 18 recites "a detection

module being operable to perform an error detection technique on the packet using error detection data inserted into the first portion of the packet before an associated second portion of the packet is received by the plurality of input structures, the error detection data calculated using tag data associated with the packet." Thus, for reasons similar to those discussed above with regard to Claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 9 and 18 are allowable over the proposed *Nakagawa-Christensen* combination.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of independent Claims 9 and 18, together with Claims 10-13 and 19 that depend on Claims 9 and 18, respectively.
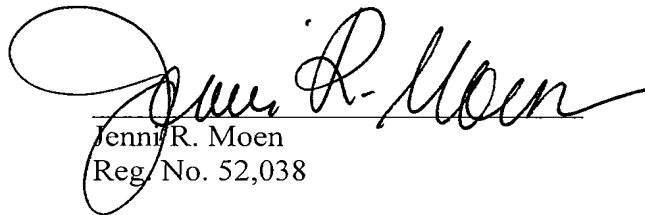
CONCLUSION

Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to contact Jenni R. Moen, Attorney for Applicant, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6809.

Applicant believes that no fees are due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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